

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method ~~for use by a research entity~~ used by a research management organization to acquire information relating to potential clinical trial participants meeting predetermined criteria using a computer readable data source that includes the dictation records of at least one healthcare professional containing information relating to the medical conditions of a plurality of patients identified by non-personal identifiers, said data source being in the form of a data stream generated during transcription of dictated records comprising:
 - a) inputting a search criteria based on participant criteria into the data source to select the records of patients that potentially meet said criteria, the patients being identified by non-personal identifiers;
 - b) transmitting said non-personal patient identifiers to said healthcare professional to enable said healthcare professional to contact said patients regarding said clinical trial; and
 - c) receiving from said healthcare professional the names of patients who have expressed an interest in participating in said clinical trial.
2. (canceled).
3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said healthcare professional is selected from the group consisting of physicians, dentists, chiropractors, hospitals and clinics.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined criteria include at least one criterion selected from the group consisting of disease state, ICD code, and patient complaint.
7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data source includes at least one additional source of information relating to the medical conditions of said patients selected from the group consisting of billing records, laboratory records, and admission records, and demographic information.
8. (currently amended) A method ~~for use by a research entity in identifying~~ used by a research management organization to identify prospective clinical trial participants meeting predetermined criteria using a computer readable data source including the dictation records of at least one healthcare professional containing information relating to the medical conditions of a plurality of patients identified by non-personal identifiers comprising:
 - a) receiving predetermined criteria from a clinical researcher;
 - b) preparing and inputting a search query based on said predetermined criteria;
 - c) selecting non-personal identifiers of patients in said data source that potentially meet said criteria;
 - d) transmitting said identifiers to said healthcare professional to enable said healthcare professional to contact patients who would want to consider participating in said trial;and

e) receiving from said healthcare professional the names of patients who have expressed an interest in participating in said clinical trial.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said data source is a data stream generated during transcription of dictated records.

10. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said non-personal identifier is an alphanumeric identifier.

11. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said dictation records are transcribed dictation records.

12. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said healthcare professional is selected from the group consisting of physicians, dentists, chiropractors, hospitals and clinics.

13. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said predetermined criteria include at least one criterion selected from the group consisting of disease state, ICD-9 code and patient complaint.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said data source includes at least one additional source of information relating to the medical conditions of said patients selected from the group consisting of billing records, laboratory records, and admission records.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said data source includes the geographical locations of said patients.

16. (currently amended) A method ~~for use~~ used by a research management organization ~~in identifying~~ to identify prospective participants for a clinical trial who meet participant criteria from a computer readable data stream of individual patient records created during transcription of the dictation of at least one healthcare professional containing information

relating to the medical conditions of a plurality of patients identified by non-personal identifiers comprising:

- a) preparing a search query based on said predetermined criteria;
 - b) comparing each of said records against said query immediately following creation of the record;
 - c) selecting non-personal identifiers of patients in said data stream having records that potentially meet said criteria;
 - d) transmitting said non-personal identifiers of selected patients to said healthcare professional for use by the healthcare professional in obtaining contact authorization from selected patients;
 - e) receiving the names of patients who have consented to be interviewed regarding the clinical trial from said healthcare professional; and
 - f) contacting patients whose names are received from said healthcare professional.
17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said query is based on information provided by a clinical researcher, said method further including the step of providing the identification of authorizing patients to said researcher.
18. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said data stream includes the geographical location of said patients.
19. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said data stream includes dictation records of a plurality of healthcare professionals, the identifier of each selected patient being transmitted to the healthcare professional originating the record relating to the medical conditions of the selected patient.

20. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said data stream is accessed after transcription.